

WEST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
August 20, 2012
Regular Board Meeting
Bailey Middle School Library

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Bailey Middle School Library, 106 Morgan Lane, West Haven, CT on August 20, 2012. The meeting was called to order by M. Toni Paine Vice Chairman of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

BOARD MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Toni Paine, Vice Chair
Patricia Libero, Secretary/Treasurer
Dorinda Borer
Betsy Davis
Patrick Egolum
Robert Guthrie
Eric Murillo
Cebi Waterfield

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Palmieri, Chairman

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Neil Cavallaro, Superintendent of Schools
Anne Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Vice Chairman Paine began the August 20, 2012 Board of Education Regular Meeting with a pledge of allegiance.

B. Public Portion of Meeting

Vice Chairman Toni Paine stated the public portion is open and asked if anyone would like to address the board.

Cebi Waterfield, 70 Seaview Avenue thanked Jon Capone and Angie Alston from the Seahawk Cheerleaders for Friday Night with the West Haven Pop Warner Seahawk Cheerleaders. They did an outstanding job. The girls learned so much and had a great time and had a great relationship with the high school girls and are looking forward now to being Devil Cheerleaders

instead of Seahawk Cheerleaders. They had shirts made up for the girls which said Seahawk Now on the front and Future Devil on the back. She said Jon was instrumental in getting this done; we have been trying to do this for a couple of years. She thanked Jon and Angie for taking on this big endeavor and said Angie coaches the cheerleaders and works very hard so thanks again.

Toni asked three times if anyone else would like to address the board.

There were no other speakers.

Public session closed at 7:05 PM.

C. REPORTS

C.1.a. Administration/Status of Schools

Neil stated the Board saw the bulk of the work that was done at Bailey today and we are very pleased with it. He thanked Ken Carney, men from AFB, and the custodial staff at Bailey all have done a great job. They have assured him that the building will be ready to open when school starts next Thursday. We have also done a lot of work at Savin Rock School also. We have changed the lights in the library that were in poor shape and very old fashioned. Put a skylight in and did some work in the gym in connection with the U.I. Company and the energy savings and eventually we will save a lot of money by upgrading the facility there. We are looking to do more of those kinds of things throughout the school system. These types of projects make the buildings more efficient and we save a lot of money down the road.

We have worked on making the entrance to the high school better over the summer. We have renovated the outside of the guard shack. We dressed it up and did some work inside. We had many comments about our beautiful athletic facilities but the main building is in need of repair. We have done what we could and eventually when we do the new high school we want to make the back way coming from Platt Avenue the main entrance so we have done a lot to spruce it up. We put up a sign, cut trees and decorated the tennis courts. It needs some work but we have done a lot and Neil thanked Jon Capone for overseeing it along with Chris Everone and our maintenance crew.

He thanked Ken Carney for this project and work with Savin Rock School and working with AFB. He pushed it along and got the project in, on time and under budget.

We are in pretty good shape with staffing for the upcoming year. We are promoting a Speech Pathologist to an administrative position on tonight's agenda. This leaves a vacancy there along with a Spanish teaching position at the high school are two we are concerned about. We have an opening in technology; someone took a job here earlier in the summer and has resigned that position. Other than these three jobs we are in very good shape to start the year. We will have the jobs covered when school starts whether we have to bring a retired teacher back or have a sub in there come day one. Certainly our goal is to do it permanently.

The buildings officially open tomorrow and the secretaries at the elementary schools will be back. All staff reports tomorrow and we will start with the mailing and all information will be out in plenty of time. Next week a school messenger will be sent to let everyone know that the first day of school will be a full day unlike previous years. We think it is important to get into the routine. We had issues on the half days with times when busses arrive and when they don't so we thought a full day start makes sense. We have had a busy summer and we are ready to start next week. If there are questions on bus stops, schedules, teachers etc please get them to me right away and we will do the best we can to address them.

Dorinda asked if the meeting will have the full CMT analysis. Anne Druzolowski said now the principals and coordinators are getting their preparations done for their review with us. The presentation will be the first meeting in October. We haven't received all the data and the way they are calculating the information is a little different this year so we are waiting to receive all the information and at that time we will also give you some of the Alliance Grant information. Neil said we received our initial feedback and he feels it was looked upon very favorably. We don't anticipate any issues in receiving the 1.5 million. There will certainly be some accountability and some things we have to do on our end but the grant was looked up favorably for the most part.

Dorinda asked if the large health benefit invoices had come in because we had to reconcile for the end of the year. Are we under or over budget. David is not here tonight he had to go to Hartford and we are very excited for him to get fitted for his new handicapped accessible van. He anticipates carrying some money over. A lot of the money was used for this project at Bailey. Although all the final medical bills are not in yet he anticipates a very small surplus. Dorinda said so based on what the council recently did we will be able to carry that over. Yes.

Dorinda asked about bus monitoring the first week. Neil said we will do the best we can. Winkle is very good. While we won't have a lot of bus monitors if there are issues call Neil and we can send the bus back and get them into the routine. Two years ago we did an entire reorganization and last year we added a lot of bus stops so he doesn't anticipate there being the issues we have had over the past couple of years. We physically make the people in charge of bus duty go out and count the kids in the morning and afternoon and make the adjustments as necessary. Dorinda asked if we had to add buses and if we were at capacity. No we aren't and we have not had to add any. We try to look and count numbers and if we have to shift kids we do before we add.

Bob Guthrie asked if an Administrative Intern Program can be looked into mid year so we can have a chance to grow your own and evaluate your own and potentially help the buildings that have a large number of people. Neil said this is long overdue and we will put something together and hopefully start it by mid year.

C.1.b. Student Representatives

There were no student representatives here and Toni Paine asked if they start a new term as of September. Neil said Abdul and Stacie will return this year.

C.1.c. Board

Bob Guthrie said the chairman had asked to set up a couple of meetings with CABE. The first meeting with CABE called the E Meeting bring you own device if you want to call it that for board members. This will take place on September 4th at 6:00 PM prior to our board meeting.

The date for the second meeting will be Wednesday, September 26th at 6:00 PM he is sure the Superintendent and Marylou will take care of notifications and the location. This meeting will probably take a couple of hours.

Neil thanked Bob for his work on this. It is a difficult time of year to schedule things and he saw the emails going back and forth; thank you.

Bob said the Pagels Playground is going up quickly and the kids are looking forward to it.

Pat Libero wondered if as a board we should go to the next Council meeting and talk to the council about taking action on the letter Neil sent to the Mayor. They only have to approve it is that what they have to do? I forgot what you said they had to do in the letter.

Neil said for those in the audience we have received a report from the accreditation service and they are pleased with all the work done up to this point with the exception that they are looking for an update as to the status of the bonding for the project. The bonding is out of our hands. The letter was addressed to Mrs. Gardner and Neil took the letter and tried to put some pressure on the city as to a time table and asked the Mayor for a report so we could respond to the accreditation people. Neil thinks this is a good idea. Neil made sure all the board members received a copy of it along with the Finance Director and all the members of the City Council. We are ready to go but right now it is out of our hands. Pat thought as a board we could go to the next council meeting and plead our case so we can move forward.

Patrick said he recalls there is a deadline for the report. Neil believes the report is due April 1st. Toni said also shovel in the ground by June 1st but Neil stated that is not going to happen but as a board it is a good idea that we do put some pressure on the city to get a better status of where we are.

Dorinda said that as a board we need to get together and set goals for the upcoming year. OK.

C.1.d. Committee

Toni said she will be calling a policy committee meeting to discuss policies on absences and attendance and student age requirements in transportation which have all been affected by Connecticut State Changes in Law and proposed changes in grading policies and student coaching requirements for sports and extra curricular activities. We are having Attorney Carolyn Dugas review these policies and changes and when we get them back I will send them to you for your review. At that point please go over them and get back to me with any questions or suggestions especially if any areas are nebulous. The main reason for change in policy is so that everyone is on the same page and of the same opinion. This makes things easier to look at and made decisions on.

Toni Paine said this brings us to our regular agenda and asked for two items to be added to the agenda. She asked for them separately. The first is under D.2. Item 12-118 Resignation Certified and that is for Dr. Patricia Whitney. Motion Please. Bob Guthrie made the motion. Pat Libero seconded the motion. There were no questions. All board members were in favor. No one was opposed. Having at least 2/3rds majority that item is added on D.2. Item 12-118.

The second is under D.5. New Hire Certified Item 12-117 4th Grade Teacher at Savin Rock School Tia Berretta. Motion Please. Cebi Waterfield made the motion and Patrick Egolum seconded the motion. All board members present were in favor. No one was opposed. Having at least 2/3rds majority that item is added on to tonight's agenda. Once again it is Item 12-117 under D.5.

D.1. Approval of Minutes

D.1.a. West Haven Board of Education Regular Board Meeting held in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT on July 16, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Toni Paine asked for a motion to approve D.1.a.

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members present were in favor except for Eric Murillo who abstained because he was not at the previous meeting.

No one was opposed

The minutes are approved

D.2. Resignations: (Certified)

12-92 Sara Scasino, Special Education Teacher – Savin Rock Community School

Effective: July 25, 2012

Reason: Personal

12-93 Megan Elliott, Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach – WHHS

Effective: July 23, 2012

Reason: Personal

12-94 Jennifer McCormick, Assistant Coach Girl's Swim Team – WHHS

Effective: July 31, 2012

Reason: Personal

12-95 Edward Nicefaro, Technology Education Teacher – Bailey

Effective: July 30, 2012

Reason: Personal

D.2. Resignations: (Certified) Continued

12-96 Claudia Davis, Elementary Teacher – Washington

Effective: August 1, 2012

Reason: Personal

12-97 Denise Rodriguez Fedon, Special Ed Teacher – Mackrille

Effective: August 9, 2012

Reason: Personal

12-98 Carl Amato, Elementary Teacher - Pagels

Effective: August 16, 2012
Reason: Personal

12-118 Dr. Patricia Whitney, Assistant Principal – WHHS

Effective: August 20, 2012
Reason: Personal

Toni Paine asked for a motion on D. 2 Resignations Certified Items 12-92 through 12-98 and including 12-118.

Bob Guthrie made the motion

Dorinda Borer seconded the motion.

There were no questions

All board members present were in favor

Motion carries

D.3. Resignations: (Non-Certified)

12-99 Nedina Lima, Para Bilingual Medical Building - Carrigan

Effective: August 9, 2012
Reason: Personal

Toni Paine asked for a motion on D. 3 Resignations Non-Certified Item 12-99

Patrick Egolum made the motion

Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion.

There were no questions

All board members present were in favor

Motion carries

D.4. Leave of Absence: (Certified)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified)

12-100 Kelly Donovan-Carew, 98 Bellvue Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516

Reading Specialist/Consultant – Pagels School

Effective: August 28, 2012

Salary: \$75,012.68 (Step 11 BS+60 stipend included)

12-101 Jacquelyn L. Schechter, 112 Fiddler Green Road, Unit C, Stratford, CT 06614

Social Worker – School TBA

Effective: August 28, 2012

Salary: \$49,579.53 (Step 4 BS+60 plus social worker stipend)

12-102 Heidi K. Domingue, 30 Village Road, Milford, CT 06460

Learning Lab Special Ed Teacher – Forest
Effective: August 28, 2012
Salary: \$41,522.69 (Step 4 BS+30)

12-103 Caitlin Wingardner, 50 Mansfield Road, North Haven, CT 06473
Autism Learning Lab Teacher – Pagels
Effective: August 28, 2012
Salary: \$50,771.62 (Step 7 BS+60)

12-104 Gina Adante, 105 Morgan Lane, West Haven, CT 06516
Learning Lab Special Ed Teacher – Pagels
Effective: August 28, 2012
Salary: \$38,638.83 (Step 4 BS)

12-105 Maria Heaney, 98 Cynthia Drive, West Haven, CT 06516
Learning Lab Special Ed Teacher – Carrigan
Effective: August 28, 2012
Salary: \$43,818.19 (Step 4 BS+60)

12-106 Lauren Sasso, 385 Racebrook Road, Orange, CT 06477
Grade 6 Teacher – Carrigan
Effective: August 28, 2012
Salary: \$38,638.83 (Step 4 BS)

12-107 Karen Dandelske, 161 Riggs Road, Orange, CT 06477
Grade 2 Teacher – Savin Rock
Effective: August 28, 2012
Salary: \$41,522.69 (Step 4 BS+30)

12-108 Robbin A. Pierz, 618 Towne House Road, Fairfield, CT 06824
Family and Consumer Science Teacher - WHHS
Effective: August 28, 2012
Salary: \$40,214.75 (Step 5 BS)

D.5. New Hire: (Certified) Continued

12-109 Judith M. Antignani, 224 Fairwood Road, Bethany, CT 06425
Early Childhood Coordinator - District
Effective: September 1, 2012
Salary: Per Administrators' Association Contract +6

12-110 James F. Turcio, 16 First Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516
Assistant Director Pupil Services - District
Effective: September 1, 2012
Salary: Per Administrators' Association Contract +6

12-111 David Nicolelli, 5 Perry Merrill Drive, West Haven, CT 06516
Mathematics Teacher - WHHS
Effective: August 28, 2012
Salary: \$43,256.02 (Step 5 BS + 30)

12-112 Laura Pressnell, 7 Noahs Lane, Norwalk, CT 06851
Special Ed Preschool Teacher - Mackrille
Effective: August 28, 2012
Salary: \$41,522.69 (Step 4 BS + 30)

12-113 Gwen G. Rice, 27 New Street, Shelton, CT 06484
Math Teacher - WHHS
Effective: August 28, 2012
Salary: \$43,256.02 (Step 5 BS + 30)

12-114 Matthew Milano, 642 Ocean Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516
Cultures in Society Teacher, Grade 8 - Bailey
Effective: August 28, 2012
Salary: \$38,638.83 (Step 4 BS)

12-115 Christina Lorenti, 262 Blohm Street, West Haven, CT 06516
Elementary Teacher, Grade 2 – Washington School
Effective: August 28, 2012
Salary: \$38,638.83 (Step 4 BS)

12-117 Tia Berretta, 149 Dawson Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516
Elementary Teacher, Grade 4 – Savin Rock
Effective: August 28, 2012
Salary: \$38,638.83 (Step 4 BS)

Toni Paine asked for a motion to approve D.5. New Hires Certified items #12-100 to #12-115 and including #12-117

Dorinda Borer made the motion to do all inclusive

Bob Guthrie Egolum seconded the motion

Discussion: None

All board members were in favor

All Items D.5.items #12-100 through #12-115 and 12-117 inclusive are approved

Motion carries

D.6. New Hire: (Non-Certified)

12-116 Lucille Mastraccio, 536 Jones Hill Road, West Haven, CT 06516-6330
3 Hour Cashier – Washington School
Effective: August 29, 2012
Salary: Per Contract

Toni Paine asked for a motion to approve D.6. New Hire Non-Certified item #12-116
Dorinda Borer made the motion to approve
Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion
Discussion: None
All board members were in favor
Motion carries
Item 12-116 is approved

D.7. New Business

F. Informational:

Dorinda Borer would like to congratulate the new hires this season. Applause followed.

Cebi said the Sea Hawk Cheerleaders are playing a Flag Football Powder Puff Game this Saturday from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM with Stratford, Trumbull and Milford Cheerleaders. All the money raised will be donated to the Hole In The Wall Gang Camp in honor of Casey Ridgeway a student at Carrigan last year who being treated for osteosarcoma who is doing very well and will help coach the team. It will be at Veteran's Field which is the old Nike Site. Donations will be collected at the door and there will be a concession stand etc. Councilman Mike Last is coaching the Powder Puff Cheerleader Football players so it should be an interesting game.

Toni Paine asked for a motion for adjournment
Dorinda Borer made the motion
Cebi Waterfield seconded the motion
Everyone approved the motion
The meeting ended at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marylou Amendola
Board Secretary